

connection-oriented configuration.

48. The apparatus of claim 46 wherein at least a portion of the network operates in a connectionless configuration.
49. The apparatus of claim 46 wherein at least one node on the network is capable of operating in both a connectionless environment and a connection-oriented environment.

50. The apparatus of claim 46 further comprising:

means for generating, for at least one of the nodes on the network, an alternate output route out of the node such that, in the event that data to be transferred toward a destination node cannot be forwarded to the next successive node over the link associated with the destination node, the at least one of the nodes can forward the data over the alternate output route toward the destination node; and

means for forwarding the data over the alternate output route toward the destination node before a recovery operation is performed if data to be transferred toward a destination node cannot be forwarded to the next successive node over the link associated with the destination node.

REMARKS

In connection with the foregoing matter, please charge any additional fees which may be due, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 12-0448. A duplicate copy of this letter is provided for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

LAPPIN & KUSMER LLP



Steven M. Mills

Registration Number 36,610

Attorney for Applicants

Date: November 30, 1998
Two Hundred State Street
Boston, MA 02109
Telephone: (617) 330-1300
G:\IBNR\002\PRELIMAM.WPD